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33. (New) The method of Claim 32, wherein the administration to the animal occurs between 1 hour and 4 days of age.

34. (New) The method of Claim 32, wherein the administration to the animal occurs between 1 hour and 24 hours of age.

35. (New) The method of Claim 32, wherein the mycobacterial cell wall extract is prepared from family *Mycobacteriaceae*, genus *Mycobacterium*, or species *Mycobacterium phlei*.

36. (New) The method of Claim 32, wherein activation of the immune system comprises activation of white blood cells.

37. (New) The method of Claim 36, wherein the white blood cells are group T-lymphocytes or monocytes.

38. (New) The method of Claim 37, wherein the T-lymphocytes are CD4⁺ T lymphocytes.

39. (New) The method of Claim 38, wherein the CD4⁺ T lymphocytes are CD25⁺CD4⁺ T lymphocytes or MHC Class II⁺CD4⁺ T lymphocytes.

40. (New) The method of Claim 37, wherein the monocytes are MHC Class II⁺ monocytes.

41. (New) The method of Claim 36, wherein the activated white blood cells display enhanced production of IFN- γ in response to a stimulus.

42. (New) The method of Claim 32, wherein the enhancement of production

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performance is an increase in the average daily weight gain of the animal or an increase in efficiency of feed use.

43. (New) The method of Claim 32, wherein the enhancement of production performance is a decrease in the mortality of the animal, a decrease in the number of treatment days necessary to maintain the health of the animal, a decrease in the cost of treatment necessary to maintain the health of the animal, or any combination thereof.

44. (New) The method of Claim 32, wherein the animal is a mammal, bird, fish, amphibian or crustacean.

45. (New) The method of Claim 32, wherein the animal is domestic food animal.

46. (New) The method of Claim 45, wherein the domestic food animal is a calf, a chick, a piglet, a kid, a fawn or a lamb.

47. (New) The method of Claim 45, wherein the domestic food animal is a calf of a domestic cow.

48. (New) The method of Claim 45, wherein the domestic food animal is a chick of a domestic fowl.

49. (New) The method of Claim 32, wherein the mycobacterial cell wall extract is combined with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

50. (New) The method of Claim 32, wherein the administration is subcutaneous, intravenous, intramuscular, intraperitoneal or oral.

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51. (New) The method of Claim 32, wherein the amount of the mycobacterial cell wall extract administered to the animal is from about 0.001 μg per kg to about 600 μg per kg per dose.

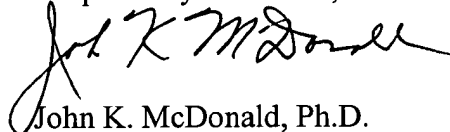
52. (New) The method of Claim 32, wherein the amount of the mycobacterial cell wall extract administered to the animal is from about 0.01 μg per kg to about 400 μg per kg per dose.

53. (New) The method of Claim 32, wherein the amount of the mycobacterial cell wall extract administered to the animal is from about 0.1 μg per kg to about 200 μg per kg per dose.

By this amendment, Claims 32-53 are added. There are now 22 claims pending. These are Claims 32-53.

No additional fees are believed due; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 11-0855.

Respectfully submitted,



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